

## PUBLICATIONS.

**The Annals of Surgery** for August, in addition to several other and very excellent articles, contains a most valuable contribution to the anatomy of the head. "The Anatomy of the Inferior Ethmoidal Turbinate Bone with Particular Reference to Cell Formation; Surgical Importance of Such Ethmoid Cells," by Dr. Howard A. Lathrop, of Boston, is the title of the paper in question. It is amply illustrated with excellent half-tones, and the illustrations are such as to elucidate the text.

**Trade "Literature."**—An excellent sample of the sort of advertising circular sent out in hundreds of thousands every week to physicians of the United States, has been received. The article advertised is of no particular importance except as an example. The circular first gives the chemical name of the drug (one of the excessively numerous German immigrants, not recognized in Germany, but manufactured for American consumption) and follows it with a statement of the many truly wonderful actions of this particular chemical in a number of affections. It then states the solubility, etc., and follows this with a number of very fine "ready-made" prescriptions, indicated in the conditions noted. The circular closes with the statement that "literature" and samples will be sent free on application, following which is a list of the "literature." The fact mentioned by a correspondent in this issue of the JOURNAL, that it is very easy to obtain all sorts of endorsements for such trash from sundry German "professors" and others, is suggestively indicated by a careful perusal of this list of available "literature." There are twenty-one pieces of it which any physician may have sent to him, if he so desires, and of the twenty-one but one is indicated as having been published in an American journal. The author has a decidedly German name, and the journal publishing it is one of the small and insignificant ones that live and thrive only on the paid articles published and the write-ups, or "reading notices," which it prints. In all probability it is either reprinted from some foreign publication or has been bought by the manufacturers from some German "professor" and published at advertising rates.

**Decapsulation of the Kidney.**—Drs. Tyson and Frazier report an operation of decapsulation of the kidney (Edebohls' operation) in the *Univ. Penna. Bulletin* for September. The patient was a child of 9, suffering from chronic parenchymatous nephritis; the urine, before operation, was 21 ounces for the 24 hours, one-half, by volume, being albumen. All medical treatment unavailing; ascites persistent and recurring; patient considered hopeless and referred to surgical ward. Patient so weak that it was thought impossible to operate on both kidneys, so one was first operated upon. The second 24 hours after the decapsulation the urine rose to 42 ounces; the third to 73, and the fourth to 102 ounces. It then dropped back to an average of 60 ounces daily. Two months later the other kidney was similarly operated upon. The urine remains at about 60 ounces and the albumen contained is about 50 per cent by volume. The report refers to the work upon dogs done by Dr. Harold A. Johnson, of San Francisco, and closes with the significant sentence: "On the other hand, there can be no doubt that the patient's life has been saved, and apart from the urinary evidences, she is seemingly in perfect health."

**A Real Question of Ethics**—The *Illinois Medical Journal*, the publication of the Illinois State Medical Society, publishes the report of a committee of the Illinois Pharmaceutical Association which deals with the relations of pharmacist to physician, and says: "it is of particular interest to our members." It should be of particular interest to every physician in every State and Territory of this country. The report is here printed almost entire:

A short time ago some 50 druggists of Hyde Park gave a banquet to which one hundred doctors were invited; the object was to establish more cordial relations. The subjects under discussion were mainly such as had been presented at a meeting of pharmacists at Springfield some two years previously, and were discussed with much interest. The subjects are here briefly outlined, the train of thought in each instance being simply started:

**Self Dispensing; Advantages and Disadvantages**—Saving of time; economy to the patient. Making the case fit the remedy and not the remedy fit the case. Narrowing of the number of remedies at command. Substitution of the remedy at hand for some other which better judgment would dictate, etc.

**Tablet Triturate Evil**—All the above evils, plus uncertainty of medication, etc.

**Prescribing Proprietary Preparations**—Lack of knowledge as to constituents. Popularizing (advertising to the public) to the palpable disadvantage of the physician. Placing heavy financial burden on both pharmacist and patient. (Notably true in such instances as phenacetin, wool fat, the hexamethylene tetramins, etc.).

**Prescribing National Formulary Preparations**—Something the druggist can make and the physician can know all about; in other words, generally and universally standard preparations. A prominent druggist had on exhibition a number of preparations of this sort, furnishing a striking illustration of their superiority over proprietary preparations, both from a commercial and an ethical point of view.

**Phenacetin vs. Acetanilid**—Educate the physician to the fact that they are almost identical, with the advantage, medicinally, in favor of acetanilid—let him know that you oppose phenacetin because it is a monopoly and costs twenty times what it should.

**Anti-Kamnia vs. Acetanilid Compound**—Comment is superfluous.

**Counter Prescribing—Its Advantages**—If any, to the druggist; its injustice to the physician; its injustice to the patient.

**Refilling Prescriptions and giving Copies**—Have an understanding with your physician that his wishes when expressed will be regarded.

The foregoing subjects cover practically the entire range of common ground between the physician and the druggist and afford a prolific and profitable field for exploration and coöperation along the lines followed by the Hyde Park druggists. While it should be our aim to discourage so far as possible the prescribing of proprietary preparations, yet so long as doctors prescribe them, let us fill such prescriptions with the genuine article.

Whose fault is it that the secret proprietary preparation thrives, increases and multiplies?

**Nurses' Guide to Surgical Bandaging and Dressings**, by Wm. Johnson Smith, F. R. C. S., issued by the J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. Price 75 cents.

This little volume is well gotten up and is of a nice size for the purpose intended—a volume of suggestion and instruction that may be carried in the pocket of the student or nurse while on duty. The preface seems to tell the truth regarding the volume; a characteristic and peculiar rarity: "In writing